

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A coated stainless steel strip product with a dense and evenly distributed layer on one side or both sides of said strip ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said layer consists of essentially of one or several of the metals gold, copper, nickel, molybdenum, cobalt, silver, tin or tungsten, ~~that the~~ wherein a thickness of said layer is preferably maximally 15 μ m, wherein a ~~that the~~ tolerance of said layer is maximally +/- 30% of the layer thickness, ~~that the~~ wherein a Cr content of the steel strip substrate is at least 10%, and ~~that~~ wherein the layer has ~~such a good an~~ an adhesion to the strip that the coated steel strip, under uniaxial stretching ~~can be uniaxially stretched~~ to fracture by tensile testing, does not show ~~without showing~~ any tendency to ~~peeling, flaking or the like~~ peeling or flaking.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the thickness of the strip substrate is between ~~0,015~~ 0.015 mm and ~~3,0~~ 3.0 mm.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim ~~1 or 2~~ 1, ~~characterized in that it is made of~~ wherein said strip includes a substrate of austenitic stainless steel, or duplex stainless steel, or hardenable martensitic chromium steel, or precipitation hardenable stainless steel, or maraging steel with a minimum tensile strength of 1000 MPa in the cold rolled or heat treated condition.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) Product according to ~~any of preceding claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the layer has a multi-layer constitution of up to 10 layers.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 4 ~~characterized in that~~
wherein each individual layer has a thickness of between 0,05 0.05 to 15 μm .

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 4 ~~characterized in that~~
wherein each individual layer has a thickness of between 0,05 0.05 to 11 μm .

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 4 ~~characterized in that~~
wherein each individual layer has a thickness of between 0,05 0.05 to 5 μm .

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the layer has a multi-layer constitution of individual layers of different metallic coatings,
such as Ag, Ni, Mo, Co, Au, Mo, W, and/or Sn coatings.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) Product according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the layer ~~may consist~~ consists of alloys of at least 2 ~~the~~ elements ~~according to claim 1~~
selected from the group consisting of gold, copper, nickel, molybdenum, cobalt, silver, tin and
tungsten.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any of the claims 1-9,~~
~~characterized in that it~~ claim 1, wherein the product is suitable for use in load carrying
applications where a low contact resistance at the surface is advantageous.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A product according to ~~any of the claims 1-9,~~
~~characterized in that it~~ claim 1, wherein the product is suitable for the production and use of
spring elements is in switches, connectors, ~~or~~ metallic domes etc domes.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) Method of manufacturing a coated stainless steel
strip product according to ~~any of the preceding claims, characterized in that said product is~~
~~produced~~ claim 1, comprising producing the coated stainless steel strip product in a continuous
roll-to-roll process included in a strip production line using electron beam evaporation
comprising an etch chamber in-line.

Claim 13 (New) Product according to claim 8, wherein the different metallic
coatings are selected from the group consisting of Ag, Ni, Mo, Co, Au, Mo, W and Sn.